

**House Study Bill 176 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON BACON)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to snowmobile user permits and registration  
2 fees.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321G.2, subsection 1, paragraph h, Code  
2 2017, is amended by striking the paragraph.

3 Sec. 2. Section 321G.3, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **321G.3 Registration and user permit required — penalties.**

6 1. Each snowmobile used by a resident on public land, public  
7 ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this state shall be  
8 currently registered in this state pursuant to [section 321G.4](#).

9 A resident shall not operate, maintain, or give permission  
10 for the operation or maintenance of a snowmobile on public  
11 land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail unless the  
12 snowmobile is registered in accordance with [this chapter](#).

13 ~~The owner of a snowmobile must also obtain a user permit in~~  
14 ~~accordance with [section 321G.4A](#).~~

15 2. A violation of [subsection 1](#) is punishable as a  
16 scheduled violation under [section 805.8B, subsection 2](#),  
17 paragraph "a". When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator  
18 shall submit proof to the department that a valid registration  
19 ~~and user permit have~~ has been obtained by providing a copy  
20 of the registration ~~and user permit~~ to the department within  
21 thirty days of the date the fine is paid. A person who violates  
22 this subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

23 Sec. 3. Section 321G.4, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
24 to read as follows:

25 2. The owner of the snowmobile shall file an application for  
26 registration with the department through the county recorder  
27 of the county of residence in the manner established by the  
28 commission. The application shall be completed by the owner  
29 and shall be accompanied by a fee of ~~fifteen~~ thirty dollars and  
30 a writing fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#). A snowmobile  
31 shall not be registered by the county recorder until the  
32 county recorder is presented with receipts, bills of sale,  
33 or other satisfactory evidence that the sales or use tax has  
34 been paid for the purchase of the snowmobile or that the  
35 owner is exempt from paying the tax. A snowmobile that has

1 an expired registration certificate from another state may be  
2 registered in this state upon proper application, payment of  
3 all applicable registration and writing fees, and payment of a  
4 penalty of five dollars.

5 Sec. 4. Section 321G.4B, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **321G.4B Nonresident requirements — penalties.**

8 1. A nonresident wishing to operate a snowmobile on public  
9 land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of this  
10 state shall ~~obtain a user permit in accordance with section~~  
11 ~~321G.4A. In addition to obtaining a user permit, a nonresident~~  
12 shall display a current registration decal or other evidence  
13 of registration or numbering required by the owner's state of  
14 residence unless the owner resides in a state that does not  
15 register or number snowmobiles.

16 2. A violation of **subsection 1** is punishable as a scheduled  
17 violation under **section 805.8B, subsection 2**, paragraph "a".  
18 When the scheduled fine is paid, the violator shall ~~submit~~  
19 ~~proof to the department that a user permit has been obtained~~  
20 and provide evidence of registration or numbering as required  
21 by the owner's state of residence, if applicable, to the  
22 department within thirty days of the date the fine is paid.  
23 A person who violates this section is guilty of a simple  
24 misdemeanor.

25 Sec. 5. Section 321G.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
26 follows:

27 **321G.5 Display of registration and ~~user permit decals~~ decal.**

28 The owner of a snowmobile shall display the registration  
29 decal and ~~user permit decal~~ on the snowmobile in the manner  
30 prescribed by the rules of the commission.

31 Sec. 6. Section 321G.6, subsections 1 and 4, Code 2017, are  
32 amended to read as follows:

33 1. Every snowmobile registration certificate and  
34 registration decal issued expires at midnight December 31  
35 unless sooner terminated or discontinued in accordance with

1 this chapter or rules of the commission. After the first  
2 day of September each year, an unregistered snowmobile  
3 may be registered and a registration may be renewed in one  
4 transaction. The fee is five dollars for the remainder of the  
5 current year, in addition to the registration fee of ~~fifteen~~  
6 thirty dollars for the subsequent year beginning January 1, and  
7 a writing fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#).

8 4. A county recorder or a license agent designated by the  
9 director pursuant to [section 483A.11](#) may issue snowmobile  
10 registration renewals electronically pursuant to rules adopted  
11 by the commission. The fee for a registration renewal issued  
12 using an electronic system is ~~fifteen~~ thirty dollars plus an  
13 administrative fee established by the commission and a writing  
14 fee as provided in [section 321G.27](#).

15 Sec. 7. Section 321G.7, subsection 2, Code 2017, is amended  
16 to read as follows:

17 2. The department shall remit the fees, ~~including user~~  
18 ~~permit fees collected pursuant to [section 321G.4A](#),~~ to the  
19 treasurer of state, who shall place the money in a special  
20 snowmobile fund. The money is appropriated to the department  
21 for the snowmobile programs of the state. The programs shall  
22 include grants, subgrants, contracts, or cost-sharing of  
23 snowmobile programs with political subdivisions or incorporated  
24 private organizations or both in accordance with rules adopted  
25 by the commission. Snowmobile fees may be used to support  
26 snowmobile programs on a usage basis. At least ~~fifty~~ eighty  
27 percent of the special fund shall be available for political  
28 subdivisions or incorporated private organizations or both.  
29 Moneys from the special fund not used by the political  
30 subdivisions or incorporated private organizations or both  
31 shall remain in the fund and may be used by the department for  
32 the ~~administration of the snowmobile programs~~ purchase of trail  
33 grooming equipment. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys in  
34 the special fund shall not revert to the general fund of the  
35 state at the end of a fiscal year. Notwithstanding section

1 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the  
2 special fund shall remain in the fund.

3 Sec. 8. Section 321G.8, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
4 follows:

5 **321G.8 Exempt vehicles.**

6 Registration ~~and user~~ permits shall not be required for the  
7 following described snowmobiles:

8 1. Snowmobiles owned by the United States, this state, or  
9 another state, or by a governmental subdivision thereof, and  
10 used for enforcement, search and rescue, or official research  
11 and studies, but not for recreational or commercial purposes.

12 2. Snowmobiles used exclusively as farm implements.

13 3. Snowmobiles registered with an approved sponsored  
14 snowmobile special event.

15 Sec. 9. Section 321G.27, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code  
16 2017, is amended by striking the paragraph.

17 Sec. 10. Section 321G.27, subsection 2, Code 2017, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 2. ~~a.~~ A license agent shall collect a writing fee of  
20 one dollar for a snowmobile registration or for renewal of a  
21 registration by the license agent.

22 ~~b.~~ ~~A license agent shall retain a writing fee of one dollar~~  
23 ~~from the sale of each user permit issued by the license agent.~~

24 Sec. 11. Section 321G.34, subsection 5, Code 2017, is  
25 amended to read as follows:

26 5. a. Upon the conviction of a person of any violation of  
27 this chapter or a rule adopted under [this chapter](#), the court,  
28 as a part of the judgment, may suspend or revoke one or more  
29 snowmobile registration ~~or user permit~~ privileges of the person  
30 for any definite period.

31 b. The court shall revoke all of the person's snowmobile  
32 registrations ~~or user permits~~ and suspend the privilege of  
33 procuring a registration ~~or user permit~~ for a period of one  
34 year for any person who has been convicted twice within one  
35 year of trespassing while operating a snowmobile. A person

1 shall not be issued a registration ~~or user permit~~ during the  
2 period of suspension or revocation.

3 Sec. 12. Section 331.602, subsection 16, Code 2017, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 16. Issue snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle registrations  
6 and user permits as provided in sections 321G.4, 321G.4A,  
7 321G.6, 321G.21, 321I.4, 321I.5, 321I.7, and 321I.22.

8 Sec. 13. Section 331.605, subsection 1, paragraph d, Code  
9 2017, is amended to read as follows:

10 d. For the issuance of snowmobile registrations ~~and user~~  
11 ~~permits~~, the fees specified in sections section 321G.4 and  
12 321G.4A.

13 Sec. 14. REPEAL. Section 321G.4A, Code 2017, is repealed.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill relates to snowmobile user permits and  
18 registration fees. The bill eliminates a requirement that  
19 a snowmobile operator must obtain a user permit from the  
20 department of natural resources to operate a snowmobile on  
21 public land, public ice, or a designated snowmobile trail of  
22 the state. Code section 321G.4A, concerning the issuance  
23 of user permits and user permit fees, is repealed and  
24 cross-references to the repealed Code section are stricken.  
25 References to user permits are also stricken.

26 The bill raises the annual registration fee for a snowmobile  
27 from \$15 to \$30. The bill also provides that 80 percent  
28 instead of 50 percent of the fees in the special snowmobile  
29 fund shall be available for the use of political subdivisions  
30 or incorporated private organizations or both. The bill  
31 provides that moneys not used by those entities remain in the  
32 fund and may be used by the department of natural resources  
33 for the purchase of trail grooming equipment, instead of for  
34 administration of snowmobile programs.

35 The bill adds an exemption from registration requirements

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1 for snowmobiles that are registered with an approved sponsored  
2 snowmobile special event.